GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:206
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Intellectual Property Index
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been ranked low in the Intellectual Property Index (IPI) and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has launched a "Scheme for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Awarenessâ€"Creative India and Innovative India" under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives;

(c) the number of IPR awareness workshops/seminars conducted under the said scheme; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve India"s IPI?

Answer

???????? ??? ?????? ???????????? (????????? ??????)(??????? ??????? ???????)
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 206 FOR ANSWER ON 31ST JULY, 2017.

(a): The Government is not aware of any index by the name of "Intellectual Property Index" published by any multilateral organization. However, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which is the specialized United Nations agency on Intellectual property (IP) with 189 member states and is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation, publishes the Global Innovation Index (GII) annually along with other partners.

In the 2017 report, India ranks 60th on the GII out of 130 countries. This is an improvement of 21 places from the 81st rank in 2015, and 6 places from the 66th rank in 2016.

(b): Yes, Madam. A Scheme for IPR Awareness has been launched on 26th May, 2017. The scheme targets conducting IP awareness workshops/ seminars in collaboration with industry organizations, academic institutions and other stakeholders across the country. These awareness programmes are tailored for the following categories: Schools, Universities/ Colleges and Industry, including MSMEs and Startups. The scheme also envisages IP training and sensitization programmes for enforcement agencies (Police) and the Judiciary. The objective of the said Scheme is to foster creativity and innovation and thereby, promote entrepreneurship.

(c): 19 programmes across 18 different states were carried out in the pilot phase of the Scheme last year. 13 programmes, including 12 in Kendriya Vidyalayas, have already been carried out in schools in 2017.

Training programmes have also been carried out for police officials in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana. Additionally, training has been conducted at North Eastern Police Academy, where officials from nine states participated.

(d): India has a well-established legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), which meets its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns. India has a Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) compliant, robust, equitable and dynamic IPR regime.

In addition, the Government of India has taken various steps to further strengthen the IPR regime of the country, some of which are as follows:

â€¢ The National IPR Policy, 2016 was adopted on 12.05.2016 as a vision document to guide future development of IPRs in the country. It has seven objectives including:

1. IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion − To create public awareness about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.
2. Generation of IPRs − To stimulate the generation of IPRs.
3. Legal and Legislative Framework − To have strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest.
4. Administration and Management − To modernize and strengthen service oriented IPR administration.
5. Commercialization of IPR − Get value for IPRs through commercialization.
6. Enforcement and Adjudication − To strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.
7. Human Capital Development − To strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.
â€¢ Creating and exploiting synergies in the IPR environment is of paramount importance. The administration of Copyright Act, 1957 and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000, along with their associated Registries, has been transferred to the DIPP. Subsequently, under the Finance Act, 2017, the Copyright Board has also been merged in the Intellectual Property Appellate Board.
â€¢ There have been wide spread and far reaching amendments in the Patents Rules, 2003 and the Trademarks Rules, 2002. Thus, the IP processes have been re-engineered to streamline them and make them more user-friendly.
â€¢ Manpower in the Intellectual Property offices has been ramped up significantly with recruitment of an additional 458 Patent Examiners apart from the existing 130 and an additional 57 Trademark Examiners. 100 Trademark Examiners have also been deployed on contract basis. This augmentation of manpower has already had a salutary effect on the examination and disposal of patent and trademark applications. For instance, the number of patent applications examined in the first quarter of 2017-18 are 11898, as compared to just 1932 in the corresponding period last year. The examination time for trademark applications has also come down from 13 months to just 1 month.
â€¢ Apart from country-wide awareness programmes, an IPR Enforcement toolkit for the Police has also been prepared, which is a ready reckoner for police officials across the country in dealing with IP crimes.
â€¢ Special benefits have been made available for startups and MSMEs.
â€¢ The Government has entered into an agreement with WIPO for establishment of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC).
â€¢ The Commercial Courts set up under the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts Act, 2015 also deal with IP disputes.

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